

Ex # 1621
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Evidentiary Document # 5111.

1st Witness:- MRS. JONES, having been duly sworn:-

On the 7th July 1945 we were ordered to evacuate our homes and go to TAMALU, place of Civil Government. On the following day we were driven from there and had to take shelter in the jungle, the reason being that if the Allied Forces landed TAMALU would probably be the first target. Whenever there were raids either by air or sea the English speaking people were sure to get some sort of harassment at the hands of the Japanese.

On the 10th July, Dr. JONES was arrested by Captain TOYOSABUR SUII, the civil Chief of the Japanese Administration. The same evening I made enquiries of some officers (KINOSHITA and KOBAYASHI) about my husband but I found no definite reply and by the way they spoke and the look on their faces I imagined they were lying to conceal something from me. I requested SUII at least to get a letter from my husband in his own handwriting stating that he was well. The next day SUII told me that the Naval Commander UEDA did not like the idea and there was a difference of opinion between him and the Commander and lastly he had to resign.

On the 14th July, there was a meeting organised by the Japs and then only I came to know that not only my husband but also about 30 persons were arrested - all under the same charge of signalling to the British Forces. Small groups of people were arrested after that on the same cause.

My husband was seen writing something for the Japanese from the 10th to the 14th and afterwards it was reported that he was found both hands and feet tied up, inside a leaking motor shed. Since then I have had no news of my husband. Whenever I had occasion to speak to the Japanese I always wanted to prove my husband's innocence, but the Japanese would not listen to me. I was given to understand by KIMURA that HENRY JAMES (a Nicobarese) was also arrested with my husband. I learnt that HENRY JAMES signed a confession bond stating that when MR. SCOTT was about to leave CAR NICOBAR he handed about 400 rockets to DR. JONES and that DR. JONES distributed these rockets among the Nicobarese and Indians, thus giving them a chance to communicate with the Allied Forces.

On 24th July, I was arrested and was sent straight to the Civil Administrative Building where I was questioned by Captain UEDA (Interpreter KIMURA) as to whether I was helping my husband and whether he had any co-operation with the Allied Forces. They also told me that my husband was arrested and charged with espionage and that they were going to produce him before some higher authorities, for further trial. As my husband always said that he was innocent I was released the next morning.

On the 11th August, I was again arrested by YASUDA on a charge that I had a wireless set in my possession and that I knew how to operate it. They also stated that the remaining rockets were with me. I was taken to Army H.Q. and on my way I noticed 11 Nicobarese and Indians, hands tied together and all tied to posts under a "Beehive hut". The next day I too was taken to this beehive hut - was told to go upstairs and from there I could plainly see the Indians and Nicobarese below me, tied with strong rope and tortured to such an extent that they were really gasping for breath. There were large raw patches on knees, elbows, and they were considerably worried by flies. I saw one soldier, whose name I do not know threaten PAUL LAITIL with a bayonet and then beat him across the knees and elbows, at the same time asking him when he would show KETPAI where the wireless set was. By KETPAI I understood him to mean SGT. MAJOR HACHIROELON MATSUOKA.

While at Army HQ I had seen one man (TANTA), who had been terribly beaten and blood was streaming down from his head. I came to know that he died very soon after. Later I overheard MUNEHARU YASUDA talking to a soldier and saying that Indians were not very strong and died from beating only. I heard him tell the soldier that in future he should beat them, not about the head, but only about the elbows and knees, which will give them a gradual pain and make them tell the truth. I recollect that a number of those I had seen had no skin left about their knees or elbows.

On Sept. 4th, SUMI came to me with some presents from HQ and forced me to accept them. He was also asking me whether I was angry with the Chief. I had to reply in the negative as I was then too much afraid of the Japanese. I wanted to know the whereabouts and welfare of my husband but SUMI was too clever and told me that my husband was still alive but his return would be difficult. I was told not to worry as peace had been declared and everything would be settled soon.

I have never seen any rockets fired by Car Nicobarese or known of any wireless sets being used for communication to the Allied Forces.

(Signed) I. JONES.

X
(Signed) CAPT. SUMI.

X
(Signed) Japanese characters. MATSUOKA.

X
(Signed) Japanese characters. YASUDA.

I hereby certify that Capt. TOYOSABURO SUMI, Sergeant Major HACHIROELON MATSUOKA and MUNEHARU YASUDA, whom I now recognise, signed and fingerprinted the above statement in my presence.

(Signed) I. JONES.